

The Church and the City

Acts 11:19-30
November 8, 2026
Brady Bassett

The Big Idea: Christians are to be a great light to the cities of the world. It is the will of God that Christians make an impact in the world around them. Christians must recognize that they are called to not just take care of their own but to minister and reach out to those on the outside. Ministering in a multi-cultural environment will present great challenges but it also brings with it amazing opportunities.

Acts 11:19-24 (NASB95)

19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

1st Century Antioch and 21st Century America

- Why Antioch?- "No more appropriate place could be imagined, either as the venue for the first international church, or as the springboard for the worldwide Christian mission."- John Stott
- Antioch was the third largest city of the Roman empire.
- The population was estimated to be as high as 500-600,000 people.
- Antioch was a cultural hotspot made up of at least 5 major cultures.
- Antioch was also a religious hotspot.
- God brings light out of dark places and brings light to dark places.
- The light of the Gospel can thrive in dark places.
- The dark places of the world need the light of the Gospel.
    - No matter where they Christian may be, their primary goal remains the same: Proclaim Christ!

The Need for Individuals

- Qualities of Barnabas:
    - He goes where he is needed.
    - He rejoices.
    - He encourages.
    - He endures.
    - He helps prepare future generations
- God does not need the many in order to bring forth many.

Mercy Ministry (Acts 11:27-30)

- Several non-Christian sources confirm a famine took place around 45-46 AD.
- The church in Antioch gave freely because they knew fellow Christians were hurting.
- To be a Christian means that we make it our duty to love like Jesus and minister to those that are hurting.
- "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?"- James 2:15-16
- In our ministries of mercy, we are showing both believers and unbelievers that Jesus cares about our needs.

"A commitment to the real gospel of salvation carries along with it a commitment to the material welfare and well-being of people. True religion involves not just praying and receiving Christ, but it also involves feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the prisoners, and helping bring relief in times of calamity, such as the famine we read about in Acts."

-R.C. Sproul